

EASTERN SHORE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (ESMPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)  
FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2015  
2:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE/INVOCATION

- Chairperson Mr. Richard Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:45 PM.
- Pledge led by Mr. Jonathan Smith.
- Invocation by Mrs. Adrienne Jones.

ROLL CALL

- Ms. Sarah Hart, MPO Coordinator, called the roll.
  - **Members Present:** Mr. Richard Johnson, City of Daphne; Ms. Adrienne Jones, City of Daphne; Mr. Jonathan Smith, City of Fairhope; Ms. Jennifer Fidler, City of Fairhope; Mr. Joey Nunnally, Baldwin County; Mr. Vince Beebe (as proxy for Mr. Don Powell), ALDOT Southwest Region; Mr. Taylor Rider, BRATS; Mr. Robert Cummings (as proxy for Mr. Carl Nelson), City of Spanish Fort; Mr. Richard Rider, Town of Loxley.
  - **Members Absent:** Mr. Bill Harbour, Baldwin County Board of Education; Mr. Heiko Einfeld, Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Emmanuel Oranika, ALDOT Montgomery; Mr. Clint Andrews, FHWA; Mr. Patrick Northcutt, Central Baldwin Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Greg Smith, City of Robertsdale; Ms. Pam Caudill, Fairhope Airport Authority.
  - Ms. Sarah Hart, ESMPO; Ms. Allison Sprinkle, Baldwin County Highway Department.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- **MOTION:** By Mr. Taylor Rider to elect Mr. Richard Johnson to serve as Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee for FY 2016. Motion seconded by Ms. Jennifer Fidler.
  - Discussion: None
  - In favor: All
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstained: None
  - Result: Motion Carried
- **MOTION:** By Mr. Jonathan Smith to elect Mrs. Jennifer Fidler to serve as Vice-Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee for FY 2016. Motion seconded by Mr. Taylor Rider.
  - Discussion: None
  - In favor: All
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstained: None
  - Result: Motion Carried

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **MOTION:** By Mr. Richard Johnson to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2015, TAC meeting. Motion seconded by Mr Taylor Rider.
  - Discussion: None
  - In favor: All
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstained: None
  - Result: Motion Carried

## NEW BUSINESS

1. **Action** – Modifications to MPO Visionary List (**All**)
  - Ms. Hart stated that two (2) projects had been submitted for inclusion on the Visionary List of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP. Ms. Hart reminded committee members that adding a project to the Visionary List does not guarantee funding through MPO funds. She explained that the Visionary List acts as a “wish list” for needed projects, and all planned projects within the MPO planning boundary are required to be on the Visionary List.
  - Ms. Hart stated that the first project to be considered is for a sidewalk on Gayfer Rd. Extension from Meadowbrook Dr. to Bishop Road near Fairhope. She explained that the project had been submitted by a Citizen and the sidewalk would link Meadowbrook Subdivision to the existing sidewalk network.
  - Ms. Hart stated that the second project is a turning lane on State Road 104 at Higbee Road. She explained that St. Michaels Catholic High School is currently under construction on Higbee Road and there will be increased traffic volume turning onto Higbee Road off of State Road 104.
  - **MOTION:** By Mrs. Adrienne Jones to recommend the Policy Board add the sidewalk on Gayfer Rd. Ext. to the Visionary List of the Long Range Transportation Plan. Motion seconded by Mr. Taylor Rider.
    - Discussion: None
    - In favor: All
    - Opposed: None
    - Abstained: None
    - Result: Motion Carried
  - **MOTION:** By Mr. Robert Cummings to recommend the Policy Board add the turning lane on SR 104 at Higbee Rd. to the Visionary List of the Long Range Transportation Plan. Motion seconded by Mr. Taylor Rider.
    - Discussion: None
    - In favor: All
    - Opposed: None
    - Abstained: None
    - Result: Motion Carried

**2. Action** –Adoption of Final FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (**All**)

- Ms. Hart presented the Final FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the committee. She explained that the TIP is the four year funded project list of the Long Range Transportation Plan. She explained that a comment had been received from a citizen. All comments were relating to BRATS and public transit, and all were positive comments or suggestions. Ms. Hart instructed the committee to the TIP Memorandum of Understanding. She then reviewed the Federal Funding Report and reviewed the projects for the MPO. Ms. Hart directed the committee to the Self-Certification form of the TIP and stated that #7 and #10 had been scratched out to indicate the MPO is not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act or the Rehabilitation Act. She mentioned that 0 out of the 14 MPOs in the state were in compliance, so we are not alone in this. She explained that more detail about ADA Compliance would be included in the next agenda item.
- **MOTION:** By Mr. Jonathan Smith to recommend the Policy Board adopt the Final FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program. Motion seconded by Mrs. Adrienne Jones.
  - Discussion: None
  - In favor: All
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstained: None
  - Result: Motion Carried

**3. Discussion** – Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

- Ms. Hart stated that the Federal Highway Administration and ALDOT had handed down new requirements regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act and Rehabilitation Act. She explained that each member government would be required to submit required information and comply with the requirements set forth in order to continue receiving federal funding. She stated that each municipality would be required to appoint an ADA Coordinator and develop an ADA Transition Plan. She stepped through a timeline with important submittal dates regarding the new requirements.
- Ms. Hart explained that all governments receiving federal funds will be required to comply with the new regulations. These are not exclusive to members of Metropolitan Planning Organizations.
- Mr. Richard Johnson stated that the Transition Plan FHWA is asking for includes just public right of way, not public buildings or parts. He stated that each municipality will need a plan that inventories public right of ways for compliance with ADA requirements. The plan will then detail how and when the municipality will address the facilities that are not compliant.
- Mrs. Jennifer Fidler stated that the City of Fairhope had been working on ATRIP projects which are federal funds. She explained that all sidewalks along Fairhope Avenue were required to be ADA compliant due to federal funds being used.
- Mr. Vince Beebe stated that ALDOT's policy will be “as you make improvements” to address facilities not in compliance. As a road is resurfaced or improvements are made, the facilities in the right of way should be brought into compliance at that time.

- Mrs. Fidler stated that any time a facility is “touched”, it must be brought up to compliance, as required by federal law.
- Mr. Richard Johnson stated that the Baldwin County Commission has an ADA Transition Plan and suggested using their document as a template or reference.
- Mr. Nunnally stated that the county is currently re-assessing county facilities and right of ways to bring their Transition Plan up to date.
- Mrs. Adrienne Jones inquired about the building department requirements as it relates to ADA and the public sector.

#### **4. Action - Use of Planning Funds for Fairhope Downtown Study**

- Ms. Hart explained that Mr. Dan Burden, who is well known in the bike/ped community, had visited Fairhope to review and assess several aspects of transportation in the Downtown Fairhope area. She stated that due to changes in staffing, there would be a significant amount of planning funds remaining from FY 2015. She stated that the MPO had come under budget in each of its operational years, and had left over planning funds that can be used for studies. Ms. Hart stated that the MPO had previously approved planning funds for a Causeway Study in Spanish Fort and a Downtown Study for the City of Daphne. The City of Fairhope plans to complete a Downtown Study and requested the use of MPO planning funds to pay for the study.
- Mr. Jonathan Smith stated that he spent time with Mr. Burden during his visit to Fairhope. He explained they are looking for ways to improve parking downtown and ways to encourage citizens to utilize the parking deck. He explained that there will be bicycle and pedestrian elements, as well as “way-finding”.
- Ms. Hart stated that she would recommend the Technical Advisory Committee recommend the Policy Board approve funds up to a certain dollar amount.
- Mr. Richard Johnson stated that these planning funds should be used for studies like this. He also stated that moving cars off of the street and into the parking garage, will improve capacity.
- Mr. Johnson suggested leaving the dollar amount up to the Policy Board.
- **MOTION:** By Mr. Jonathan Smith to recommend the Policy Board approve the use of planning funds for a Fairhope Downtown Study. Motion seconded by Mr. Robert Cummings.
  - Discussion: None
  - In favor: All
  - Opposed: None
  - Abstained: None
  - Result: Motion Carried

#### **5. Informational – Project Update**

- Ms. Hart stated that ALDOT had accepted fees submitted by SAIN Associates and funding agreements had been signed for the Adaptive Signal Project. She stated that once the agreements were received, ALDOT would issue a Notice to Proceed and SAIN would begin the design process. She explained that funding agreements were being executed for the rest of the projects and she would provide updates as she receives them.

## **6. Discussion – State Freight Plan**

- Ms. Hart stated that ALDOT is currently working on a Statewide Freight Plan. She explained that MPO staff had attended a meeting regarding the freight network and its functionality within the ESMPO planning area. She stated that ALDOT is in the information gathering stage of the plan, and asked the committee members for comments or suggestions regarding freight flow along the Eastern Shore.

## **7. Not for TAC**

## **8. MPO Coordinator's Report**

- 3-C Agreement – Ms. Hart stated that the 3-C agreement is the contract between the County, ALDOT, and the member governments, agreeing to work together cooperatively through the transportation planning process.
- Changes to State TIP – Ms. Hart stated that the state had made a change to the let date for a project in our planning area which is included in the state Transportation Improvement Program.
- CAC Letters of Appreciation – Ms. Hart stated that 2 members of the Citizens Advisory Committee had resigned due to personal reasons. The MPO sent them a thank you note, thanking them for their service.
- Video Kiosk – Ms. Hart stated that the MPO was open to new subjects for videos to be played on the video kiosk. She explained the MPO would continue to explore options to purchase video equipment and create new videos.
- Ms. Jennifer Fidler stated that she is a proponent of the video kiosk and thinks it's a great way to share and educate the public.
- Mr. Richard Johnson stated that he agrees with Ms. Fidler that it adds value. He stated that content will need to be updated regularly, but it can be a useful tool.
- Mr. Joey Nunally asked how easy it is to change the content. He stated that the county will be doing 150 projects that will require lane closures and inquired about using the kiosk to publicize information.

## **NEXT MPO MEETINGS (All)**

- **Policy Board Work Session:** Wednesday, January 20, 2016; 10:00 AM; TBA
- **BPAC Meeting:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016; 9:00 AM; TBA
- **CAC Meeting:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016; 1:00; TBA
- **TAC Meeting:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016; 2:30 PM; TBA
- **Policy Board Meeting:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016; 10:00 AM;

## **PUBLIC FORUM (All)**

- **Members of the Public:** No member of the Public addressed the TAC
- **Members of the Press:** No members of the Press addressed the TAC
- **Board/Committee Members:**

- Mr. Taylor Rider stated that BRATS is working on the Spanish Fort Park and Ride project. He explained that the NEPA document had been approved and are working on pre-approval and the grant.
- Ms. Jennifer Fidler stated that the City of Fairhope is getting ready to begin the bid process for an ATRIP project to resurface on CR 48. They also finished sidewalks in Quall Creak.
- Mr. Joey Nunnally stated that the county is getting ready to start on FEMA projects as a result of the April flood and there will be a lot of lane closures and detours. He explained there are 150 projects south of I-10.
- Mrs. Adrienne Jones thanked Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Fidler for agreeing to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair for the next year. She also thanked Ms. Hart for her work.
- Vince stated that he had a list of things to discuss with ALDOT and would report back and give him a call if there is anything we need from ALDOT.
- Mr. Robert Cummings stated that the City of Spanish Fort had moved into its new facility on Spanish Fort Blvd.
- Mr. Richard Johnson suggested the TAC hold its January meetings at the new facility in Spanish Fort.
- Mr. Johnson also stated that the Round-a-bout in Daphne was open and functioning and working very efficiently.

#### ADJOURNMENT (All)

- **MOTION:** By All to adjourn the meeting.
- Result: Meeting adjourned